CLAIMS

1. A method for partially rendering an electronic template containing a plurality of tags, at least some of which have corresponding end tags, the method comprising:

(a) rendering the template, up to a specified tag, to produce a partial output;

(b) restoring in the partial output any end tags subsequent to the specified tag that are necessary to ensure that the partial output is well-formed; and

(c) displaying the partial output.

2. A method according to Claim 1, including:

(a) parsing the template to generate an alternative representation of the template in which end tags are implicit;

(b) truncating said alternative representation by removing parts subsequent to the specified tag; and

(c) using said alternative representation to generate said partial output, including the end tags necessary to ensure that the partial output is well-formed.

3. A method according to Claim 1, including:

(a) parsing the template to generate a parse tree having a branch at each tag for which there is a corresponding end tag;

(b) truncating the parse tree to remove parts subsequent to the specified tag; and

(c) using the truncated parse tree to generate said partial output, including the end tags necessary to ensure that the partial output is well-formed.

4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the template is an HTML document, including HTML tags.

5. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the template includes embedded command tags, identifying information to be inserted into the template when it is rendered.

6. A method according to Claim 5, including keeping a count of the number of embedded command tags that have been executed during rendering, and terminating the rendering when said count reaches a predetermined value.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the embedded command tags include loop commands defining at least one loop, and wherein said count is incremented each time the loop is executed.

8. A method according to Claim 1 including inserting locator markers in the display of the partial output, each locator marker indicating the location of material that was generated from a particular command tag.

9. A method according to Claim 8 wherein selecting one of the locator markers automatically rewinds the display to the command tag corresponding to that marker.

10. A method according to Claim 8 wherein any locator marker corresponding to a command tag embedded within a link is queued until the link in which it is embedded closes.

11. A computer system comprising:

(a) a content store, holding an electronic template containing a plurality of tags, at least some of which have corresponding end tags;

(b) means for rendering the template, up to a specified tag, to produce a partial output;

(c) means for restoring in the partial output any end tags subsequent to the specified tag that are necessary to ensure that the partial output is well-formed; and

(d) means for displaying the partial output.

12. A computer program product comprising a data carrier including a computer program for performing a method for partially rendering an electronic template containing a plurality of tags, at least some of which have corresponding end tags, the method comprising:

(a) rendering the template, up to a specified tag, to produce a partial output;

(b) restoring in the partial output any end tags subsequent to the specified tag that are necessary to ensure that the partial output is well-formed; and

(c) displaying the partial output.